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ASTHMA CAUSED BY IPECACUANHA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In the last No. of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, I notice a communication by Dr. Robertson, of Nashville, entitled "Singular Effects of Ipecacuanha," illustrated by the writer's own case. Having been myself a sufferer from these "singular effects," I take the liberty to send you the results of my experience and observation on the subject, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter may be established, and with a hope that it may aid in preventing my medical brethren from suffering or inflicting on others a similar misfortune. I have delayed the publication for years, for no other reason, that I am aware, than that no man willingly calls up or dwells upon painful scenes.

New York, Oct., 1843. Yours, &c. URIAH TURNER, M.D.

I inherited from my mother's family, with a slender constitution, a strongly-marked nervous temperament; and with advancing years, dyspepsia, with its long train of attendants, developed itself, but without any disorder of the respiratory organs until my 25th year.

Late in the autumn of 1822, while attending medical lectures, I was seized, after a night of exposure, with a pretty severe pneumonia, which confined me about two weeks. Under the care of the venerable Professor Nathan Smith, I was treated principally with antimonials, bleeding being deemed unnecessary; and after my recovery, which was rapid, my health continued as formerly, until the spring following, when I commenced the practice of medicine in Litchfield Co., Conn. During the spring and summer I had repeated and severe attacks of spasmodic asthma; arising, as I then supposed, from the exposure incident to my employment, acting on my lungs, rendered susceptible by the previous pneumonia attack. The paroxysms usually came on suddenly, preceded by tickling in the nostrils, and sneezing, and continued from three days to three weeks, during which I was unable to remain in a recumbent position. During a paroxysm, the dyspeptic symptoms were usually mitigated considerably.

In the autumn following, more than six months from the first attack, I was led for the first time, by mere accident, to attribute these asthmatic

paroxysms to the irritating properties of ipecac. when inhaled, having never read or heard of anything to guide my investigations. I was in the habit of using ipecacuanha freely in my practice, both alone and in combination, which, like most country practitioners, I carried with me and dealt out at the bed-side. Having occasion, during a violent storm, to visit a patient who could not afford the light of a candle, I was obliged to make use of the floor for a table, and the "fire fair blazing" for a lamp, and in the course of this awkward operation, a large paper of ipecac. was broken open, and scattered freely through the room. After the usual preliminaries of sneezing, &c., I found myself laboring under an unusually severe paroxysm of asthma, which, as formerly, I attributed to the inclemency of the weather; but while pursuing my lonely way homeward, amid the pelting of the storm, leaning forward in the carriage in order to breathe, and obliged to trust my horse to his own discretion, I became suddenly sensible of smelling and tasting ipecac., with a slight degree of nausea, and before I reached my residence, the truth flashed across my mind that all my sufferings might have been caused by this drug. My attention once properly directed, I soon established the fact beyond all doubt by actual and painful experiment. Yet so new and singular was the fact, that it was a long period before I could convince myself that even a single grain floating in the atmosphere of an ordinary room, was capable of inducing a violent paroxysm of asthma, continuing weeks, preventing a recumbent position, reducing the strength as rapidly as an ordinary fever, and only terminating by cough and expectoration. Ipecacuanha being so constantly required in practice, I attempted every means to handle it with safety—using extreme care, covering my mouth, &c.; but with all these precautions, accident or haste rendered them not unfrequently unavailing. A bit of paper in which a Dover's powder had been wrapped, stepping into a physician's office, or even coming in contact with his clothing, might and often did cause a paroxysm sufficient to arrest me in the midst of my business, and to render my services at all times precarious; although for years I kept the article in a separate closet, and in no case presumed to handle it myself.

Such are some of the effects of inhaling the powder of ipecacuanha—one of our mildest and most useful remedies—effects essentially different from that of any other article with which I have ever come in contact. The fumes of burning sulphur often produce a sudden dyspnoea, but it continues only for a few minutes, and in severity bears no comparison to that resulting from ipecac.

But like Dr. R., I, too, have suffered the horrors of taking an ipecac. emetic—the recollection of which, at a distance of almost twenty years, thrills through my nerves like some hideous and long-remembered dream. These effects, however, differed in some essential particulars from those described by Dr. R., as will be seen in the sequel.

Early in the spring of 1825, I took half a drachm of powdered ipecac. root, in tepid water, taking the precaution to have it weighed and mixed in a part of the house remote from my own room, not dreaming that any other form than dry powder would effect my breathing. Sad mistake!

showing conclusively that the peculiar deleterious effect of this drug depends on an idiosyncrasy, and is in no way related to that usually produced on asthmatics by dust, feathers, &c. To proceed. In about the usual time for an emetic to operate, there seemed to be a simultaneous effort to breathe, cough and vomit, while neither of these functions was performed in any degree of perfection—producing a state of suffering totally indescribable by words. The peculiar burning sensation mentioned by Dr. R. is not so distinctly recollected, but the whole muscles of the chest and abdomen seemed in a state of violent irregular spasm—every effort to vomit being interrupted by an attempt to cough; and notwithstanding a cold March wind was blowing, it became necessary to open the windows and support me in an erect position for nearly an hour, to prevent immediate suffocation—an event momentarily expected by myself and friends. At the end of about an hour, without any previous mitigation of symptoms, I was almost instantaneously and completely relieved, and at my own request was laid upon the bed. My breathing was free and natural, attended, however, with extreme weakness; at the same time a burning heat was diffused over the whole surface of the body, which, on examination, was found to proceed from a kind of erysipelatous eruption covering every portion, similar to what is seen after exposing the naked skin to a burning sun. The patches were circular, and varied from the size of a sixpence to that of the palm of the hand—considerably elevated, with thick rounded edges, and of a fiery color. Yet so much greater had been the previous suffering, that the burning did not prevent me from soon falling into a profound sleep, which lasted until morning; and, what is remarkable, there was no return of the asthmatic symptoms; whereas, in every other instance where they were brought on by ipecac. they have continued several days at the least—thus rendering it almost certain that suffocation was prevented by one of those numerous resources which Nature, or, to speak as a Christian philosopher, Nature's God, has always at hand when the puny art of man has failed.

In several subsequent years I experienced numerous attacks without always being able to trace them to any specific cause. On two occasions I took a single laxative pill, without being aware that each of them contained about a grain of ipecac.; yet in both instances, after an interval of eight or ten hours, a severe paroxysm of asthma followed their exhibition, and continued several days. In both cases the pill was taken on going to bed, rendering it impossible to attribute the result to any other cause.

With respect to remedies, a large dose of morphine or chloric ether taken at the commencement of a paroxysm, appeared to mitigate the symptoms. Smoking tobacco freely had a similar effect, while smoking the stramonium root seemed rather injurious. Lobelia, in form of tincture, produced an irritation somewhat like ipecac.

I suffered two attacks from exposure to ipecac., of such unusual violence as to deserve notice. Instead of the ordinary wheezing, the muscles of respiration seemed tetanically convulsed, producing a condition not unlike what is denominated "holding the breath," with slight sighs

or catches at intervals barely sufficient to keep the wheels of life from ceasing altogether. In the first instance relief was obtained by swallowing two drachms of *eth. sulph.*, leaving instead a singular but pleasing mental excitement. In the other, where the interrupted breathing had continued fearfully long, and where swallowing was impossible, inhaling the fumes of burning paper previously saturated with *nitras potass.* alleviated the symptoms almost instantaneously.*

Such are the brief outlines of my own case, which I have reason to believe will be new to a majority of the profession; but my attention having been much directed to the subject, it may be proper to state that four other cases of a similar character have come to my knowledge, rendering it probable that strict observation will discover many others, who may have suffered without knowing the cause. With two of the persons alluded to, wives of physicians, I am intimately acquainted, and am informed by them, that so far as they believe, they have never suffered asthma from any other cause than *ipecacuanha*, either inhaled or taken as an emetic—the latter producing most violent effects on the respiratory organs. The subjects of the two other cases were physicians, from whose medical friends I received the account.

From a long and careful consideration of all the circumstances above detailed, I have derived the following conclusions:

1. That in my own case the susceptibility to the irritating qualities of *ipecacuanha* was entirely created by the pneumonic attack—an opinion which derives strength from the fact that while a student I was in the daily habit of handling it freely.

2. That no asthmatic symptoms would have followed the pneumonia, had I not been exposed to this powerful agent. But that,

3d. The habit once established, and the lungs having taken on the asthmatic action, the ordinary exciting causes of the disease, cold, watchfulness, &c., had the power of prolonging, and ultimately of inducing it.

4. That all asthmatics are liable to suffer from coming in contact with, or in any way using, *ipecac.* Hence physicians cannot be too cautious how they prescribe it for patients having the least tendency to asthma, as distressing and even fatal effects may follow its administration.

TETANUS AND SECTION OF THE MEDIAN NERVE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps you may think the following case of sufficient interest to merit a place in your Journal; if so, it is at your disposal.

Hartford, Ct., October 5th, 1843.

With great respect, yours,

P. W. ELLSWORTH.

* This remedy was communicated to me by the late venerable President Harris, of Columbia College, who informed me that through a long life he had been unable to sleep without filling his room with this vapor; and there are many asthmatics to whom I have recommended it, who derive great benefit from smoking or burning it in their sleeping apartments.

Early in May, Mrs. C. H., of this city, consulted me, having, while washing, thrust a pin deep into the palm. It had entered obliquely near the carpal end of the thumb line, at the base of the thenar eminence, at the point where the median nerve gives off its branches to the thumb. The pain was extremely severe at the time, and continued so at intervals for several weeks, exacerbations being excited by imprudence on her part. On the 21st of May, the neck began to feel stiff; during the ensuing night tetanus was well developed. The left side of the body, the one injured, seemed principally affected; pleurosthotonos alternating with episthotonos. She had trismus, and the epigastric pain so characteristic of the disease. Passing over the particulars of the treatment, I may say, that the usual remedies were fully tried, as opium and its preparations; assafoetida in large doses, by mouth and by enemata; Graves's camphor mixture, and tinct. hyoscyamus in full doses; the hand had been blistered, and morphine applied to the denuded surface; hyoscyamic acid lotion; tobacco poultices, &c. &c. Wine had produced feelings of comfort, but no marked effect on the disease. An incision had been made over the place injured, and ol. terebinth. poured in. The tetanic spasms had been violent for several days, when, all remedies seeming to fail, it occurred to me that the iodide of potassium might be useful. I began with moderate doses, intending to increase them as necessary, but immediately the spasms ceased, also the epigastric pains, and never returned. The trismus continued ten days, the mouth being perfectly closed during this period, the iodide seeming to have no effect upon it; but at the end of this time the muscles began to relax, so that on the 10th June the mouth could be partially opened. From the time of the injury until the 10th June, she had suffered the most violent pain in the part injured, no treatment seeming to give the least relief.

Having in view a case precisely similar in its origin, and from the effects of which puncture the person, though escaping tetanus, never recovered, I resolved to divide the nerve. This was done on the 10th, with the assistance of Dr. Fuller, of this city. An incision was made two inches above the annular ligament, an inch in length on the outer side of the flexor sublimis and the inner edge of the palmaris longus; this latter was drawn outward, the cellular tissue separated between the flexors of the fingers and the flexor radialis, when the nerve lay exposed upon the tendon of the thumb. A portion half an inch in length was removed. The fingers, until this time contracted and perfectly useless, could be extended, the muscles of the jaw relaxed, allowing free motion, and the pain shooting up the arm vanished at once. The trismus was several hours in disappearing. She remained perfectly free from pain for two days, when the hand became inflamed, but this was subdued by antiphlogistic treatment. Mrs. H. soon went into the country, where on the 31st July I learned that she had recovered the use of her hand so as to be able to do ordinary house-work. In October Mrs. H. called at my office, when I found that sensation was perfect as ever in the fingers, though there was a degree of stiffness; this, however, did not much interfere

with her work, as she had a good degree of strength in the hand. She expressed herself highly satisfied with the results of the case.

Remarks.—It is my wish to direct attention to a form of tetanus of which little or no mention has been made by writers, and which is nevertheless of the greatest importance. Who first made the distinction I do not know. Professor Knight, of New Haven, informed me that he had been in the habit of making it in his lectures, and it is acted upon by many of the physicians of this State. The distinction is this:—true tetanus and traumatic hysteria. By this last term we are not to understand hysteria, which indeed sometimes presents tetanic symptoms, but a formidable disease, scarcely distinguishable from the other form except at its commencement, and probably frequently fatal. It may occur in males. Larrey classes hysteria among the exciting causes of tetanus, but it is probable that he only meant that hysteria assumes at times that appearance.

In the first variety, several days and sometimes weeks supervene before spasmodic symptoms. It occurs more frequently among males, and no pain extends from the wounded part to the throat; this last is one of the most distinctive signs—the attention of the patient being first arrested by a little stiffness and uneasiness about the throat and neck, the exciting wound having been often forgotten. Another distinctive mark is found in the results of treatment. Opium here, even in prodigious doses, has little, and we may almost say, no effect. The mind, too, is usually clear even to the moment of dissolution.

In the second variety, females are more frequently the subjects of attack, and symptoms supervene usually within a short time or immediately after the injury. They are more susceptible to the effects of medicine. The mind is sometimes disturbed, and the pain always commences in the part injured, from thence extending to the neck. These latter circumstances encouraged me respecting Mrs. H., though her symptoms were for a time very formidable. She had episthotonos, pleurosthotonos, tremors, spasmodic twitchings of the muscles of the face, trismus, the epigastric pain and constriction, great difficulty in deglutition, especially when attempting to swallow fluids, pulse at times 120, and bowels obstinately constipated. The spasms had come on three weeks after the puncture—another bad feature; but a degree of mental torpor and the peculiarity of pain led me to hope that relief might be found.

The best practice in both varieties, where it can be adopted, is to apply the actual cautery to the injured point upon the first appearance of tetanus. This Larrey has strongly recommended. I have known it remarkably successful, but have also seen it fail. A young man in this city accidentally cut a piece of skin and cellular tissue from the pulp on the end of a finger. In a few hours the pain was agonizing; he was seized with delirium and symptoms of approaching tetanus, resisting all ordinary treatment. His case was pronounced extremely critical by a physician of experience in this disease. A common fire shovel, heated and applied to the finger, removed every symptom within an hour; nothing remained but a sore finger. In the case of Mrs. H. the symptoms

mentioned, together with the situation of the wound, caused me to delay this treatment. Nor should I have divided the nerve without further delay, had it not been for the severity of pain which had nearly exhausted Mrs. H., and rendered almost any operation desirable which promised relief. I am confident, however, that had it been done sooner, it would have at once stopped the disease, and no inflammatory action would have probably followed. Another circumstance is to be remarked; the nerve had indubitably been exsected, yet in two days we find sensation perfectly restored and so continuing. It was not the upper extremity of the nerve painful from inflammation, for pressure could be borne upon this without uneasiness. The pain did not extend up the arm, nor above the point of division. The iodide of potassium had to my knowledge proved eminently serviceable in certain cases of asthma—a fact, I believe, first noticed by Mütter, of Philadelphia, and had been recommended by Professor Delafield, of New York, in certain states of hysteria. It occurred to me that it might be useful here, and as nothing else seemed likely to be permanently serviceable, a trial was given. Her amendment commenced immediately and decidedly, the epigastric pain first disappearing, lastly the trismus. It was upon the general symptoms it seemed to act. Perhaps there was only a coincidence between the administration of the remedy and the crisis of the disease—too many worthless articles thus obtaining temporary celebrity; nor would I wish now to speak in high praise of a remedy from a single trial; but having resorted to it from the fact of its having relieved other spasmodic diseases, and finding it so promptly beneficial, it may be worth trial after other things have failed.

Larrey says that it frequently happens that the pain extends from the injured part to the neck, showing that he had not made the distinction here laid down.

In the seventh No. of the *Retrospect*, I see it stated that the iodide of silver has proved very useful in whooping cough. It appears to me that in cases having little inflammatory action, the iodide of potassium would be found equally beneficial.

FURTHER REMARKS ON THE DOCTRINE OF SYMPATHY.

To the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SIR,—Had I not left unnoticed and unexplained the capital fact which is always adduced in support of the doctrine of sympathy, I should not have again trespassed upon your indulgence. The omission was made from a want of the proper knowledge of the fact in question. I have never seen a man from whom the seminal glands had been removed in early youth, and therefore could not say, from personal observation, how far the deprivation of these glands affected the voice, and whether it did not affect the perfect development of the whole system in a similar degree. A eunuch is never publicly known to be such, in our country, and we must, therefore, resort to analogy. With the physical effects of the removal of these glands in several species of domestic animals, we are

well conversant. In the ox-kind, if our observation be particularly directed to this subject, I think it will be perceived at once that the removal of the seminal glands equally modifies the growth, the conformation and the natural development of every part of the animal. The development of the neck and throat experience no greater modification than the rest of the animal. The bull, the natural animal, is not so long or tall as the ox, and is everywhere much thicker in proportion to its length and height. The ox is slenderer in every part, from the horns to the legs; its muscles and bones are all of a greater length and of a more delicate form. The neck and occiput of the bull do not differ more from the same parts in the ox, than the form and size of every other part. The roaring of the bull differs from that of the ox, but the difference is occasioned, not by the sympathetic influence which the possession of the seminal organs exerts upon the larynx of the bull, but by the participation of the muscles of the voice in the common and natural development of the whole animal. In what does the neck of the bull differ from that of the ox, but in the shorter and bulkier size of its bones and muscles? And is not this the difference which obtains in all the corresponding parts of each of the animals?

In the case of eunuchs, the attention of mankind, in the infancy of medical observations, was naturally attracted to the change, or rather the want of development, which the deprivation of the seminal glands occasioned in the voice, without noticing the corresponding changes induced in every other part; and hence was inferred a special connection between the seminal glands and the throat. The legs and arms of the eunuch come no nearer those of the natural man than his voice; and if he has no beard, and he is said not to have any, I must infer that he has as little hair on his body.

Some women have masculine voices, and some men have feminine voices, while each possess the organs of generation in perfection. The difference of voice, therefore, is produced by other causes than the possession or deprivation of the genital organs.

Any cause which prevents the natural growth of the body, will prevent the full development of the voice. Every practitioner of medicine must have seen instances, both of men and women, whose voices were perfectly child-like, owing to a defect in the growth of the body, from rachitis. Not long since, a very popular public lecturer went through New England, who possessed the voice of a child, the consequence of the rachitis in the upper dorsal vertebræ and bones of the thorax. I also once heard a female speaker, whose voice showed the same want of development. In both these cases, the natural growth of the lungs was prevented, which also prevented the growth of the rest of the system, and consequently of the larynx, the principal organ of the voice. In all such instances, a child-like delicacy pervades the whole form. The removal or injury of many other parts of the body, by preventing its natural development, would have the same effects upon the voice as the removal of the seminal glands. The removal of the balls of the eyes, by causing a general effeminacy, produces a more musical voice. And; pro-

bably, even the removal of the tonsils would have a similar effect, if they were not needed in the enunciation of sound.

All the muscles of full-grown male animals, in the natural state, are endowed with a greater degree of the attraction of cohesion. This fact is observable when the flesh or muscular part is macerated or boiled; it is said to be tough, and more difficult to masticate. The particles of which the muscular fibres are composed, possess the attraction of cohesion in a greater degree than the meat of young and female animals. Perhaps, in this property, resides the cause of the greater or less degree of strength which all animals possess. Whether the attraction of cohesion between the constituent particles of the nervous mass and of the other organs, constitutes the attribute of strength in these parts, is less obvious, though I have a suspicion that it may be the fact. This property of cohesion in the muscles of male animals, in the natural state, in which the muscles of the voice participate, may be the cause of the greater strength of sound which distinguishes the voice of the male from the female animal.

The removal of the seminal glands, therefore, furnishes no proof of the doctrine of sympathy. Indeed, when we consider how often the human throat is diseased, and how it is sometimes almost disorganized by inflammation and ulceration, without exhibiting the slightest corresponding affection of the seminal glands in men, or the uterus and breasts in women—the tonsils at one time almost destroyed by *cynanche maligna*, and, at another, the entire throat involved in the destructive ravages of the venereal disease, without the semblance of re-action upon the distinctive male and female organs—how can we for a moment entertain the idea of such a connection, as that ascribed to sympathy, between these parts? Could the principle lie dormant amid such painful ravages?

Some medical writers have laid it down as a fundamental principle in the science, that a general sympathy is established among all parts of the system by means of the nerves. If the sense of feeling is excited in a small nerve of one of the fingers, by the stimulus of a burn, a blow, or an inflammation, they would say, the whole nervous system sympathizes with the part affected. But this language implies an activity in the nervous mass which is altogether unwarranted by observation and experiment. The nervous system invariably exhibits the most complete passiveness in the reception of impressions and in the production and extension of feeling. The sensation starts from the point where the impression is made, and is simply extended along the line of the nerves. The feeling excited in a nerve of the finger extends from thence to the brain, in the same way that it extends from one point of the nerve to another point; the brain does not receive the feeling until every intervening part of the nerve between the finger and the brain has received it. If a writer chooses to say that the part or section of a nerve next in vicinity to the section inflamed, is affected by sympathy, he only uses a figurative, cabalistical term, to express what ought to be conveyed in language descriptive of the fact. We know that a feeling or sensation is produced and extended, and nothing more. The special operations of the brain,

thought, passion, emotion and will, which appear to be merely modifications of the elementary attribute of feeling, are all extended along the line of the nerves in the same way that the feeling of pain or pleasure is extended to the brain from the remote parts. When one side of the lungs or of the liver is inflamed, it is never said that the other side becomes inflamed from sympathy, because we see the inflammation extending over the whole organ, upon the same principle it extends over one half. We should smile at the idea of introducing the aid of sympathy, to explain the progress of an inflammation on the skin from the size of a ninepence to the size of a silver dollar. Diseased action is extended in the nervous and arterial systems, in the same way it is extended in the more concentrated organs of the lungs and liver, from a part to the whole. Although more diversified in their organization, the nervous and sanguiferous systems are no less identical in their functions than the lungs or the liver; a part bears the same relation to the whole in these systems, as in the most concentrated organs.

It may serve in some measure to disengage our minds from the doctrine of sympathy, to enumerate the different ways in which diseases ordinarily occur in the human system. I will enumerate four different modes, which will be readily recognized:—

1. Diseases occur by Collapse; that is, when an organ has been diseased or inflamed, and partially or entirely recovers, and the same diseased action recommences. Pleurisies, peripneumonias, rheumatism and continued fevers, furnish abundant examples of relapses.

2. Diseases occur by Extension; when one half of the lungs or any other organ is inflamed, the inflammation will often extend to the whole. The erysipelas will sometimes extend over the whole skin, and is said sometimes to involve even the stomach and bowels. This disease, and various eruptions of the skin, are said to *strike in*, from the sympathy which the stomach and bowels have with the skin. I hope I have demonstrated the absurdity of this doctrine. In local inflammations, the inflammatory action is extended in a degree to the whole system, and creates what is absurdly called a sympathetic fever. The irritation of teething, in children, will often extend the whole length of the alimentary canal, and cease when the original irritation ceases.

3. Diseases occur by Renewal; when an inflammation has affected one part or organ, and entirely subsides, a similar inflammation will often attack another part, probably from the existence or continuance of the same causes which originated the first attack. The renewal of a disease is distinguished from a relapse by its occurring in a new part or organ. In rheumatism and the gout, renewals of the disease often occur, and sometimes in other kinds of inflammation.

4. Diseases occur in Conjunction, when two organs or parts are inflamed at the same time. In the measles, the lungs and the skin will be inflamed at the same time; and in a common cold, the mucous membrane of the nose and the inguinal glands will be inflamed together. In the mumps, the parotid and the seminal glands in men, and the parotid glands and the nipples in women, will be conjunctively inflamed. In the

scarlet fever, the skin and the throat will be conjunctively affected, although the inflamed throat will often occur without the eruption on the skin, and the eruption on the skin without the inflamed throat, which proves that they are distinct irritations, though they often occur in conjunction. Inflammation will often attack both eyes, both ears, or both tonsils, but the inflammations are simply conjunctive. Two teeth, one in the upper and the other in the lower jaw, will be seized with inflammation from the excitation of the same cold, at the same time. The instances of diseases which occur in conjunction are very numerous, and are almost universally attributed to the influence of sympathy.

Providence, Oct., 1843.

D. B. SLACK, M.D.

THE THREE GERMAN DOCTORS.

[THE following is too good to be lost. It is not often that articles furnishing mere amusement can with propriety be inserted in our pages ; but no one, it is believed, will be disposed to complain in this instance after he has laughed over the recital of the adventures, not perhaps untrue to nature, of the three rivals of Schoppenstedt.]

There was once a doctor, not of philosophy or jurisprudence, but a real doctor, who had commenced at the beginning. For several long years he had practised as a barber ; then attended lectures on anatomy ; bought a German translation of Galen ; and at length, obtained the degree of M.D. from the celebrated University of Prague. Instead of the doctoral hat, our M.D. wore a green cap with a broad peak. He did so, as he said, to protect his eyes. Censorious folks said, however, that he had not a hat, nor, what is worse, money to buy one. It is probable the doctor's purse was at low water. He could breathe a vein as well as his colleagues ; but verifying the old proverb, he had but little honor in his own country. His practice stood at zero, his townsmen looked on him with contempt. He did his best to mend matters. He inserted advertisements in the newspapers, beginning, as usual, "By God's help, I owe my recovery from long pain and suffering to the skill and attention of Dr. N. N. The blessing of God be on him." Still, no one took the bait. At night, when he observed a house where there was a party, he rang the bell so violently that the people, supposing half the town was on fire, rushed to the windows. The door opened ; he exclaimed, "Am I right ? Is Doctor N. wanted here ?" The porter surly answers, "No ; it is a mistake. We are all here in good health." Unluckily, once, misled by the darkness of the night, he went twice to the same house. The result was the infliction of a good thrashing, a *la* Langan, and the being obliged to keep his bed for a month.

This was a woful time. The suffering doctor cursed not only his own townsmen, but the half of mankind. He was occupied, however in curing his bruises, and thus gained experience. One day a newspaper fell into his hands. Among other remarkable events, such as the retreat of the English from Cabool, and a new discovery in cookery,

was the announcement of, "Wanted, in a large provincial town, a skillful physician. Heretofore, the only practitioner in the place has been a very elderly nurse. The increasing population and the probable rise of provisions, renders the acquisition of a physician indispensable. He ought to have good knowledge of surgery. The citizens, being of rather a warm temperament, have sometimes disputes, which will furnish him with too many opportunities for the replacement of broken bones, and the mending of broken heads. Apply, for further information, to A. B." The doctor having read this advertisement, felt both body and mind refreshed. Vigor and hope were at once resuscitated. He sprang out of bed, where he had passed a long and weary month, upset the table on which lay his horn snuff-box; and strewed the contents on the floor. He managed, however, to get a pinch, and exclaimed, "That is the place for me!"

Great men are alike rapid in resolve and action. By evening he had acquired the necessary information as to his route; and on the third day, he was seated in a covered vehicle jogging on to Schoppenstedt, his place of destination. The doctor had remembered the proverb—"The coat makes the man;" hence his appearance was an object of great solicitude, ere he presented himself to the good citizens of Schoppenstedt. He bought, from an old clothesman, a coat of blue velvet with silver lace, a puce-colored waistcoat, and gray small-clothes; to these was added a well-powdered periwig, with a suitable tail. His being received with respect and attention was thus ensured; and though, at every inn, the landlord would not fail to charge him double price, still his vanity was flattered, and he was thus compensated for the damage of his finances.

On a fine May morning, the country clothed in its richest verdure, the doctor beheld at length the steeple of Schoppenstedt. His heart throbbed; he felt that the crisis of his fate was at hand. However, it was not quite so near as he supposed. The heavy road and jaded horses determined the driver to halt at noon, that he might thus enter the town in the evening in good style. An inn only a few miles distant was selected. The doctor alighted, and demanded a private room; he wished to be alone. "No. 26 is vacant," said the landlord, bowing respectfully, "the door is open." The doctor thanked him and went up stairs. Misled by a reverie, he walked into No. 25 vice 26. The noise he made caused a man to rise slowly from the corner of a sofa on which he was sitting. The doctor, not aware of his error, exclaimed peevishly, "Who are you? What business have you in my apartment?" The interrogated rose up, and displayed to the querist a person habited in a blue coat, studded with bronze buttons, a shoulder-of-mutton fist, in which was a glass, through which he angrily eyed the intruder.—"I am," said he, "a doctor, of the University of Erlangen, a homœopathist, and am going to Schoppenstedt to accept office." "I," retorted our doctor, "am a doctor of Prague, am an allopathist, and, as well as you, am on my way to Schoppenstedt." Each stood silent for a few moments, throwing out angry looks. At length, the homœopathist

exclaimed, "Allopathy is the old leaven of the Philistines." "Homœopathy," retorted our doctor, "is the bantling of the devil." A pause. The homœopathist exclaimed, "Herr, you are an arrogant." The allopathist replied, "Herr, you are an ignoramus."

Now, when one doctor says to another, "you are ignorant," it is as if the Emperor of China said to the English government, "I beg to be excused buying any more opium." In both cases hostilities must ensue. Our heroes commenced the combat. The allopathist being the strongest man, at length threw his antagonist on the ground, placed his knee on his chest, and drew from his coat pocket a tooth instrument. The vanquished, viewing these proceedings, exclaimed, "For the love of God, my worthy colleague, what are you about? Are you going to murder me?" "Be quiet," said the allopathist, "I wish to show you my skill, by drawing one of your molar teeth." The homœopathist pleaded eloquently for the non-disturbance of his grinders; vainly, however, but his good luck saved him. The instrument was just placed on the tooth, when the effusion of a quantity of cold water on the head of them both, caused the victor to let go his hold. Both sprang on their feet, and saw a man, in a grey frock coat and smoothed combed hair, observing the happy result of his interference. "Good, good," said he, "the paroxysm is over." "What is over?" said the allopathist; "and who are you?" "I am," replied he, with dignity, "an hydropathist; in German, a water-doctor. I am going to Schoppenstedt. I am sure of the appointment, for you see and feel that my mode of cure is certain." The homœopathist laughed heartily. At length, said he, "It is a curious coincidence, we are all on the same errand. I propose that we shake hands and proceed at once to dinner." After re-adjusting their persons, they went to the dining-room and made a vigorous onslaught on the viands. The allopathist drank a bottle of Rudesheimer, the homœopathist sipped Madeira, the hydropathist drank water. The bill paid, they proceeded to Schoppenstedt; the next day presented themselves to the council, and announced their respective claims for the appointment.

The burgomaster rose from his seat, and, in a neat and eloquent speech, explained to them the duties of the office. He spoke so much to the purpose that one might suppose that he had studied the art himself. He informed them that it was the custom of the place that candidates for office should give proof of their capability. This rule would apply to them in the present instance; he whom they believed to be the most skilful would be appointed. "We have now three patients in the hospital; one is consumptive, the second a martyr to the gout, and the third has dropsy. Draw lots as to the choice of the cure." The doctors assented, went to the hospital, and decided by the throw of the dice. The allopathist threw the highest, and chose for treatment the consumptive patient.

The trio saw that the cases were hopeless. Allopathist, however, wrote a prescription, at which the apothecary laughed in his sleeve. It was daily repeated. The doctor betook himself to the Golden Calf, an inn near the hospital, and supported his animal economy by copious im-

bibitions and solid repasts. He promised to settle the account when he was appointed town physician. The homœopathist had the treatment of the dropsical patient. The gouty one fell to the hydropathist. Neither had occasion to employ the apothecary. The nurses and attendants were employed constantly carrying the water to and fro, were heartily tired of their office, and threatened to resign if the water-doctor was elected. At the end of three weeks it was reported to the council that all three patients were dead.

The day of election was named, and it may be easily surmised opinions were various as to the person who would be chosen. The merits of the candidates were equal.

There were nine counsellors and the burgomaster. After the usual display of eloquence, in which the qualifications of the candidates were amply portrayed, the votes were equal, each candidate having three. The casting vote rested with the burgomaster. He was sorrowfully puzzled, placed his finger on his nose, and seemed to sum up with the requisite gravity. At this critical moment the landlord of the Golden Calf entered the council-room. "Herr," said he, in a whisper, "I entreat you to give the appointment of physician to the allopathist; his ticket is undoubted; besides, unless he is chosen I shall be left unpaid. His purse is empty." "Yes, yes," said the burgomaster, "you have reason on your side. The apothecary, too, is in his favor. Mellesimal doses and wet blankets are his aversion; they would ruin his trade. Gentlemen, I give my vote for the allopathist." The counsellors bowed assent, and exclaimed—"Recte, recte, domine."

Thus the Prague doctor gained the great victory.

The citizens of Schoppenstedt were rid alike of their fears of a surplus population and a rise in the price of provisions.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 25, 1843.

*Treatise on Cancer.**—No disease that falls within the circle of medical practice, is regarded with more dread than cancer. It puts at defiance all common modes of treatment, where there is a derangement and disorganization of parts; and under ordinary circumstances, the patient is bereft of all hope through medical assistance, and drops into the grave, a victim to a disease that has baffled the researches, the skill and vigilance of the ablest practitioners from the earliest ages. Pretenders and unprincipled knaves, who dabble with medicines while they sport with human life, apparently unconscious of the vast weight of responsibility resting upon those who treat human diseases, having long ago discovered the

* The Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and Treatment of Cancer. By Walter Hayle Walsh, M.D. With additions by J. Mason Warren, M.D. Boston: W. D. Ticknor & Co. 8vo., pp. 351. 1843.

utter incompetency of the best medical skill to grapple with the terrific malady, have seized upon it with marked avidity, and gained wealth, and, with the vulgar public, immense reputation. Their success in this high order of quackery has been a theme for wits and poetasters. Who does not remember that poem of poems, by Myrick, beginning with

"Here lies, flat upon his back,
The victim of a cancer quack."

There have been no works extant, precisely satisfactory, on the management of cancer. A strange kind of mixing up of many things, without that exact order and critical analysis which are always necessary in a special guide to practice, is plainly discoverable in the essays and chapters interspersed through the books. That no great advances have been made in the treatment, for some centuries, is inferred from the fact that the mortality by it in all civilized countries, from whence statistics have been collected, has been uniform and apparently unchecked.

In the midst of this state of things, a volume has been re-published in Boston, by Messrs. Ticknor & Co., that raises the expectations of the reader to hope that a new system of exploration has finally led to a scientific course of medication in cancer; and that it may yet in some measure be brought under the control of remedies, like other disturbing causes of health. This work is not unknown in this country, by any means; but it has not been placed within the reach of all practitioners, till now. Its author is Walter Hayle Walshe, M.D., of the London University. Essential additions are made to it by our neighbor Dr. J. M. Warren, to the extent of about fifty pages. No one can properly appreciate the importance of the American editor's remarks, without following the text. It becomes apparent, in that way, that we have been provided with a desirable and valuable treatise on the subject.

The volume is divided into two parts. The first embraces the anatomy, physiology, pathology and treatment. The second treats of cancer of particular parts—as the skin, cellular tissue, muscles, glands, bones, meninges, lips, tongue, tonsils, nares, sinuses, genital organs, ear, eye, &c. &c., illustrated by two lithographic and several wood engravings. We repeat, it is a desirable book to have. The price is only one dollar and fifty cents, and therefore within the means of all.

Surgical Adjuster.—Dr. Geo. O. Jarvis, of Portland, Me., is the inventor of a curious instrument for reducing dislocations, that promises to be of essential service, according to the testimony of some of the New York surgeons. The special object of the contrivance, according to Dr. Jarvis's own account of it, "is to reduce all dislocations, to reduce and maintain coaptation of all fractures, where the principle of extension and counter-extension applies in reduction, or is requisite in the subsequent treatment."

From the representations of Dr. Jarvis, who certainly must be allowed to understand the true value of the adjuster, better than any one else, a surgeon can alone manage any kind of luxation. He requires no assistant, even in those cases heretofore considered extremely difficult under the most favorable circumstances for reduction. Even when the bones have been a long time asunder, as is sometimes the case in regard to

the shoulder or hip—where the dislocation occurred at sea, for example—with this instrument extension may be readily made, and a re-adjustment of the parts, bone to its bone, quickly and certainly effected. The power which is brought to bear on the part to be extended, is prodigious. It is a lever purchase, which nothing could resist, since it is the very contrivance with which Archimedes said he could move the world provided he had a place on which to stand. With the simple turn of a winch, a man's limbs might be torn from his body, and even the ligaments and tendons rent from their attachment. There are numerous inventions for keeping fractured bones in place, but we have no recollection of having seen or heard of any mechanical contrivance, so portable, convenient and certain as this, for accomplishing this difficult part in operative surgery. Dr. Jarvis has secured a patent at home, and contemplates soon visiting Europe for the purpose of securing the patronage of European surgeons.

There is one serious objection in regard to the general adoption of this unique instrument, which might be obviated; and that is, its cost. Medical gentlemen cannot afford to purchase anything at a high price, much better than other people. Were it placed within the reach of those whose incomes are not large, nor always certain, Dr. Jarvis might remain at home and realize quite as much for his ingenuity as would satisfy a man of ordinary pecuniary ambition.

Springs of Bath, England.—Accounts of the celebrated springs of Bath, England, have been published and re-published till it is quite an old story. Mr. Thurlow Weed, editor of the Albany Evening Journal, has given, however, a synoptical account of them, that is the best extant, because it comprises all that is essential to the distant reader, without being made tedious by a long, fatiguing theory of his own in regard to their origin or probable duration.

The baths are owned, says Mr. Weed, by the city corporation, and have produced, in the best years, from £1000 to £1,500 sterling. The price of a bath is 2s. 6d. The baths are supplied by springs which furnish 8020 gallons per minute, at a temperature of 114 degrees. The water from the *Hot Bath* is at a temperature of 117 deg. Bath had a population of 50,000, in 1831, mainly dependent on visitors for their support. It is said that Bladud, king of Britain, 680 years before Christ, was its founder, in gratitude for his recovery, by its waters, from the leprosy. The waters of Bath were known to the Romans. Everything is influenced by fashion in England. Just now it is not the fashion to go to Bath, because royalty goes somewhere else. It is acknowledged that Brighton, as well as Bath, is struggling hard for an existence—and Cheltenham is up, and still going higher, in fashionable estimation.

American Journal of Dental Science.—This discreetly-conducted periodical seems to be not only well sustained, but highly prized by the profession. To operating dentists the Journal must be of the very highest value, as it furnishes them with every known improvement in the art, from all respectable sources. Our interest in the success of the American Society of Dental Surgeons, and their writings, is unabated.

Vermont Asylum for the Insane.—Through the Asylum Journal we have received Dr. Rockwell's seventh annual report of this institution. The past year 224 patients had the advantages of the Asylum, and 88 were discharged. As 136 still remain, it is quite certain that there was a great necessity for the creation of this excellent retreat for the unfortunate lunatics of Vermont. We mentioned, some time since, that a newspaper was issued from this Asylum. From Dr. Rockwell's Report we copy the following remarks respecting this novel enterprise:

"During the past year we have published a small newspaper called the 'Asylum Journal,' which has exerted a beneficial influence on the comfort and recovery of the patients. We have had more than two hundred exchange papers, besides many other periodicals; to the editors and publishers of which we would tender our most grateful acknowledgments. We have been able to furnish every patient with a newspaper from his own immediate vicinity, every politician with a newspaper of his own political views, and every sectarian with a religious periodical of his own peculiar sentiments. * * * * *

"Those of our patients who have been students, we employ to write and select for the Journal, and those who have been merchants and business men, we employ to fold and direct the papers. Some who do not compose, assist by copying extracts from books or papers. We find the employing of our patients in writing, either by way of copying or of composition, to be very beneficial, as it diverts their attention from their delusions, and presents new objects of thought for contemplation. We always furnish them with stationary, and the employing themselves in writing has apparently been a powerful means in their restoration. They are allowed to write on all subjects except those of their hallucinations."

Bread in Diabetes.—In the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal are some remarks by T. Thompson, M.D., which are of such consequence that they should be extensively circulated by journalists. They come under the head of "*The importance of abstinence from bread in diabetes mellitus*, and an extract from them is here given:

"In this case whenever the use of bread and biscuits was prohibited, and of all vegetables, except the cruciferous order, both the quantity of the urine and its specific gravity were notably decreased. The use of some toasted bread caused the quantity to rise from two to five pints, and the specific gravity increased from 1.027 to 1.041. This happened repeatedly in the course of the case, leaving no doubt of the fact of the influence of a minute portion of bread."

Yaws.—In Mr. Bolingbroke's statistical account of Essequibo, Berbice, and other contiguous rivers of Guyana, are found the following remarks on that strange disease, known by the African name of *yaws*. He commences by saying that it has much the appearance of smallpox, from the manner of its coming out. The patient is covered with large ulcers in every part of his body and limbs, and as it is very infectious, he keeps by himself. Its duration is uncertain, being sometimes eighteen months, during which the eruption returns no less than three times. No effectual cure has ever been found for it. Mr. Bolingbroke believes salivation will

drive it in, but sulphur and other opening medicines, he continues, are now preferred, to induce its coming out. Spare diet, with exercise, and leaving nature to herself, often prove the best resource. This is a disease which a person can never have but once. He never saw but one case in a white man, and hence he seems to consider it a curse almost exclusively appertaining to the negroes. There are black women who inoculate their children with the matter, which lessens its violence and destructiveness.

Merited Honorary Degree.—A note through the post office mentions that at the last commencement of Bowdoin College, in Maine, the honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred on Dr. Benjamin Page, of Hallowell—a highly meritorious and skilful physician, and one of the oldest and most distinguished in the State.

Fever in North Carolina.—For four weeks the town of Washington has suffered from the progress of a disease approaching the yellow fever in its character. At the last dates the malady was abating, and those down with it were convalescing.

Scientific Appointment.—Samuel Williams, Esq., of Georgia, has been appointed professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in Jefferson College, Penn.

Strictures on Animal Heat. MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—I noticed an answer to my communication on *animal heat*, in your Journal of the 6th of September, signed *Tyro*. Now who *Tyro* is, or what he is, or where he is, the communication does not say. When I first saw the piece, I concluded that a writer who would not give his name and place of residence, did not deserve an answer; and have only to say now, that whenever *Tyro* may give us his true name he shall have a reply as explicit as his talents merit.

WM. H. H. MASON.

Moultonborough, N. H., October 19th, 1843.

A Freak of the Starvationists.—On the 8th of this month, three young men were brought up before Mr. Long, at the Marylebone Police Office, charged with refusing to work, and being otherwise disorderly, in the Union Strand Workhouse, Cleveland street, Fitzroy square.

It seems that the regular diet in this receptacle is as follows:

"Six ounces of bread, with butter, and half a pint of gruel, in the morning. Three days a week they have five ounces of meat, and half a pound of potatoes for dinner; on three other days they have soup without meat, and on one day, making up the seven, suet pudding weighing fourteen ounces. They have also six ounces of bread each day for supper, with some cheese if they like it."

"Then they have no bread at dinner?" asked Mr. Long.

"No, sir," replied the accusing Bunyard.

But the point of the epigram is yet to come. The men, having been idle and refractory, were condemned to pick an increased quantity of oak-

um, namely, six pounds a day, and with only six ounces of bread instead of twelve. They were willing to do three pounds of oakum daily; but no—halve the bread, double the oakum, is the rule in the Cleveland-street Workhouse.

Mr. Long, however, thought the usual diet could not be lessened with safety, and refused to interfere against the prisoners. This case, at any rate, requires no comment.—*London Med. Gaz.*

Fluid Extract of Senna. By PROFESSOR CHRISTISON.—Take fifteen pounds avoirdupois of Tinnevelly senna, and exhaust it with boiling water by displacement: about four times its weight of water is sufficient. Concentrate the infusion in vacuo to ten pounds; dissolve in the product six pounds of treacle previously concentrated over the vapor-bath, till a little of it becomes nearly dry on cooling; add twenty-four fluid ounces of rectified spirit (dens. .835); and, if necessary, add water to make fifteen (16 oz.) pints—the object being that the preparation shall be of such strength that every fluid ounce shall correspond to one avoirdupois ounce of senna. Mr. Duncan, of Edinburgh, generally makes eighty pounds of senna into this extract in one operation. The numbers given are those by which he worked in the first instance. The dose is two drachms for an adult; it very rarely causes griping. It tastes precisely like treacle, and the absence of disagreeable taste is owing to the fact that pure senna has but a feeble mawkish taste, which treacle easily covers.—*Pharmaceutical Journal.*

Pilula Ferri Composita.—In order to prepare this pill in such a manner as to keep the carbonate of iron in an undecomposed state, and to insure uniform consistence of the mass, it has been found that the directions given in the Pharmacopœia will be sufficient for these purposes, if the following points be attended to:—Dissolve the sulphate of iron, finely powdered in the treacle, with a moderate heat, and add the carbonate of soda, stirring constantly until the effervescence has entirely ceased, and the mixture has become cool; then add the myrrh gradually, and incorporate the mass. As a little evaporation takes place at the commencement of the process, a small excess of treacle is requisite to supply the deficiency. This mass retains its color and consistence remarkably well.—*Ibid.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Thomas's Case of Inflammation of the Ligaments, &c., Dr. Hoffendahl on Homœopathy, and Dr. Marcy on the Human Hair, are on file for publication.

MARRIED.—In Boston, John C. Warren, M.D., to Miss Ann Winthrop.—Henry D. Hitchcock, M.D., of Middleborough, Mass., to Miss Olivia, daughter of Rev. S. S. Arnold, Westminster, Vt.—In Hartford, Conn., Dr. Henry L. Fuller to Miss Betsey P. Moore.

DIED.—In Boston, Dr. Louis S. Eberle, 31.—At St. Genevieve, Missouri, Dr. Lewis F. Linn, Senator in Congress from that State, found dead in his bed.—At Bermuda, of the yellow fever, Dr. Jenkins.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending Oct. 21, 34.—Males, 19—Females, 15. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 6—bronchitis, 1—syphilis, 1—teething, 1—infantile, 4—bowel complaint, 1—typhus fever, 5—croup, 2—dropsy on the brain, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 2—drowned, 1—influenza, 1—intemperance, 1—apoplexy, 1—hooping cough, 2—old age, 1—dropsy, 1—lung fever, 1. Under 5 years, 18—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 60 years, 11—over 60 years, 2.

Dr. Ricord on the Treatment of Gonorrhœal Ophthalmia.—The diseased parts of the eye must be touched with lunar caustic. The nitrate of silver may be used in solution, in powder, or in a solid pencil. The solution is undoubtedly the easiest of applications. I occasionally use it in the following proportions :—Nitrate of silver, half a drachm : distilled water, two drachms.

It is open to this objection, that its action is not limited to the diseased parts, but extends likewise to those which have remained healthy. In infants or refractory adults it is, however, a great resource.

The powder can only be applied in a very unequal manner. I confine its use almost altogether to ulcers of the cornea.

To both, I prefer by far the solid pencil. The inferior lid is first turned down and the pencil carried lightly over it, so as to whiten its surface; for the upper eyelid the same operation is repeated, and such spots of the ocular conjunctiva as happen to be affected must also be touched, but never the cornea.

To protect its transparency oil has been recommended, but this liquid, running over the other parts of the eye, prevents the proper application of the caustic. An injection of water is made immediately after, so as to wash away those portions of nitrate of silver which have remained uncombined. After a first application, should the swelling and pain not be diminished, and the secretions not become thinner, more sanious, and less abundant, a second cauterization must be made, and this four, five, or six hours after the first. It should be renewed a third, and even a fourth time, at twenty-four hours interval, until diminution of the symptoms is observed.

Oedema of the conjunctiva, producing moderate chemosis, may be left to itself; but if considerable, the late Professor Sanson's advice should be attended to, and the chemosis excised—an operation which should follow, and not precede, cauterization, in order that the action of the lunar caustic be not interfered with by hæmorrhage.

As to purulent chemosis, I recommend, with Scarpa, free scarification of the phlegmonous swelling.

Although I give unbounded praise to nitrate of silver in all stages of this disease, yet I would not have you believe that I rest upon it exclusively. I derive most powerful assistance from blood-letting, abundant and repeated, both with the lancet and with leeches to the temples, and in the course of the jugular vein, frequent lotions of the eye with a decoction of poppy heads (tepid), neutral salts, as revulsives on the intestinal tube, foot baths, the elevated position of the head, and frictions around the orbit, and in the nares of the affected side, with extract of belladonna, the best sedative in affections of the eye. M. Suhel combines extract of belladonna with an equal quantity of the strong mercurial ointment, and obtains excellent results. Blisters and setons may be advantageously employed after the acute period has gone by. Lastly, I would recommend promptitude and decision in the application of this treatment; it has never failed me but once in the course of many years' practice, and that was the case I have mentioned to you, in which the deceptive mildness of the symptoms was the cause of a fatal hesitation.—*Prov. Med. Journal.*

Hemicrania and tic douloureux have been successfully treated by M. Ducros, of Marseilles, by the application of ammonia at 25 deg. to the palatine arch, by means of a camel's-hair brush, continued till tears flow copiously.